

# In the Enemy's Pocket: Al-Qaeda's Lord of War

*Our investigative findings expose a troubling truth: behind the cloak of national security, taxpayer funds are fueling the arsenal of Al-Qaeda's Lord of War, Abdul Azim Ali Musa bin Ali. His journey—from the battlefields of Afghanistan with the mujahideen to leading covert operations for core Al-Qaeda, and now returning to Afghanistan—reveals the staggering cost of ignorance. Known simply as 'Musa,' this terrorist has been the primary focus of our Benghazi investigation.*

- *Recent developments reveal that Musa is diverting U.S. funds, originally designated for the Taliban Government, to both Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State – Khorasan Province (ISKP), while also aiding a terrorist plot in Lebanon. Given the increasing urgency of this threat, we have decided to publicly release our investigative file on Musa, sharing findings from a decade of tracking him. Meet Musa: Al-Qaeda's Lord of War.*



## Cost of Ignorance

As of 2024, Musa, Al-Qaeda's covert operations expert, orchestrates the logistical backbone for external operatives deploying from Afghanistan. He also facilitates the movement of ISKP fighters from Tajikistan to Pakistan, a strategic maneuver aimed at diverting attention away from the Taliban Government. Both efforts are infused by funds provided by the Ministry of Interior (MOI) in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Musa is receiving welfare, sustenance, and material support from the MOI. Both Musa and Hamza al-Darnawi, a fellow Libyan national and 2012 Benghazi attacker, are also drawing salaries from the Ministry.

It's a concerning revelation — that the Ministry's payroll serves as a welfare system for Al-Qaeda operatives who have returned to Afghanistan.

Musa's direct superior at the MOI, the Taliban's Minister of Interior, Sirajuddin Haqqani, designated him as his 'Liaison to Al-Qaeda and Affiliated Groups.'

Meanwhile, U.S. Government's effort to combat the Islamic State, also known as ISIS, includes weekly counterterrorism funds allocated to the MOI. While the exact amount remains undisclosed, it is evident that these funds are being diverted by Musa directly to ISKP and utilized to expand both Al-Qaeda's covert and external operations.

“Benghazi was just a day—a mere Tuesday—to Musa

This embezzlement of U.S.-provided monies constitutes a violation of international sanctions, as both ISIS and Al-Qaeda are designated foreign terrorist organizations. In this case, there is a lack of oversight and accountability regarding terrorist financing by the U.S. Government.

In a separate but equally concerning development, since 2019, Sirajuddin has used ISKP as a proxy for attacks within Afghanistan, collaborating with Musa to provide cover. This tactic aims to maintain Taliban compliance with the commitments made under the Doha Deal brokered with the U.S. Government in 2020.

# Table of Contents

---

03

## Covert Operations

Discover how Musa advances terrorist covert action campaigns leveraging international networks from his safehaven in Afghanistan.

05

## Current Plots

Delve into Musa's ongoing covert operational plotting on behalf of Al-Qaeda, ISIS, the Taliban, and Hezbollah, including plans to target the U.S. Homeland.

06

## Historic Plot Snapshot

Examine Musa's pivotal role in orchestrating and facilitating some of the most notorious terrorist attacks over the past two decades.

07

## Historic Syrian Foreign Fighter Facilitation

Explore Musa's extensive involvement in facilitating foreign fighters to Syria, while orchestrating clandestine operations across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.

09

## Biography

A backgrounder walking through Musa's origins in Darnah, Libya, to his lasting role at the helm of al-Qaeda's covert operations.

***While this summary offers insight into Musa's history with al-Qaeda, it's crucial to acknowledge the vast extent of his international terrorism network, which, due to our resource constraints, is not fully explored here.***

***This is just a starting point.***



# Covert Operations

*Operationally involved with personalities from Al-Qaeda and various elements within the storied Afghan mujahideen, Musa has established an extensive facilitation network across Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Iran, Syria, Iraq, and Turkey. This network extends to Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and the greater Middle East. Regarding Musa's Tajikistan network, while initially believed to have been used since circa 2010 to facilitate terrorists to Syria and Iraq for what would become ISIS, its origins trace back even further to Musa's historic relationship with the Abdul Rasul Sayyaf Group also from the mujahideen era.*



Clockwise starting with Musa, Sayf al-Adel, Sirajuddin Haqqani, Qari Zia ur Rahman, Abu Mohammad al-Masri, Imad El-Din Mahmoud, Abdelhakim Belhaj, and Abu Muhammad al-Joulani

Musa actively plots and facilitates operations, collaborating with senior Al-Qaeda figures such as Sayf al-Adel, the head of Al-Qaeda's Military Commission; Abu 'Abd al-Karim al-Masri, a Military Commission and Majlis Shura member responsible for Al-Qaeda's operations in Syria; and Abu Hassan al-Kirkuki, Al-Qaeda's coordinator for operations in Iraq.

Further, directly working with the Afghan Taliban, particularly with Sirajuddin Haqqani and Qari Zia ur Rahman, Musa moves foreign fighters and weapons for numerous terrorist groups, utilizing an Al-Qaeda cover mechanism with assistance from the Haqqani Network. Sirajuddin, himself, has executed covert operations, successfully seeding Haqqani Network terrorist Sanaullah Ghafari (aka Shahab al-Muhajir) into ISKP during the initiation of the Doha Deal with the U.S. Government.

- In late 2023, Musa facilitated the travel of Haqqani members to Tripoli, Libya to procure Russian-made weapons, including PKT machine guns and 105mm to 106mm ammunition, from Al-Qaeda in Libya (aka the Islamic Reform Movement) led by Abdelhakim Belhaj.
- Musa maintains close operational relationships with other Al-Qaeda leaders in North Africa, including Abu Mohammad al-Masri (aka Abdullah Ahmed Abdullah), the current Al-Qaeda leader for Mali; and Imad El-Din Mahmoud (aka Abu Hazim Al-Sudani), the current Al-Qaeda leader for Sudan; both of whom are indeed alive.
- Additionally, Musa is believed to have played a role in arranging the June 2023 visit of Boko Haram senior leadership to Afghanistan and Pakistan, first facilitating their meeting with the Haqqanis and then their visit to ISKP's main training base in Tirah Valley, Pakistan.

Al-Qaeda's current covert action strategy involves keeping the international community focused solely on ISIS; refraining from publicly claiming joint attacks or direct involvement with ISIS operations.

This approach allows Al-Qaeda to expand its base in Afghanistan covertly, enabling the establishment of training camps, recruitment pipelines, weapon and personnel movements, and wealth generation, while diverting blame to ISIS.

This model resembles the one the group employed in Libya after the rise of ISIS in 2014.

In addition to core Al-Qaeda's covert action efforts in Africa, Musa aids several affiliates on the continent, notably Al-Qaeda in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Musa supports AQIM's covert operations by facilitating the movement of fighters, transporting injured combatants to Turkey and Bosnia for treatment, and coordinating the transfer of weapons and resources. He provides similar support to ISIS in Libya, collaborating with Bosnian terrorist Nusret Imamovic and Libyan al-Qaeda member Ali Mohammad Omeish, who is based in Bosnia.

One key alliance since at least the Libyan Revolution in 2011 is Musa's affiliation with a battalion within AQIM known as the Mali Group. The group smuggled weapons from Libya to Mali, Syria, and Egypt, and supplied arms to Palestinian and Lebanese terrorists, particularly Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Key Libyan figures in this operation were Musa, Hashem Abu Sidra, Khalid Sharif, and the now-deceased Wissam by Humaid, who orchestrated the mortar attack on the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Annex on September 12th, 2012 in Benghazi.

Two prominent Hamas figures in this effort were now-deceased Mohamed Mahmoud Zouari, who established the drone program for the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, and Marwan al-Ashqar, who served as the official Hamas representative to Libya until his detention in 2016 for terrorism. Marwan and members of his Hamas cell were released (see image) in December 2023 as a nod of support to Palestinian terrorists by Libyan Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh following the October 7th, 2023 attacks.

Covert operations are also jointly conducted with terrorists from Musa's early days facilitating for al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), most notably Abu Muhammad al-Joulani (aka Ahmed Hussein al-Shar'a), the leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

While associated with Joulani since at least 2003, Musa facilitated fighters and trafficked weapons for Joulani starting in 2012 when he led the al-Nusrah Front in Syria. Musa was assisted by senior Al-Qaeda Libyan operatives Abd al-Baset Azzouz and fellow 2012 Benghazi plotter Sufyan bin Qumo al-Hasadi. Musa also facilitated a handful of our Benghazi attackers in late 2012 to Syria to join the al-Nusrah Front.

As of May 2024, Joulani is operating a terrorist feeder camp for Syria in Libya, south of Misrata. Musa and other 2012 Benghazi attackers are actively supporting the facilitation of terrorists to and from this camp. Musa and the Al-Qaeda leader for this region, Bashir al-Faqih, have been working on operations since aiding the Abdul Rasul Sayyaf Group together during the Soviet War in Afghanistan.

“ Additionally, Musa was deeply involved in trafficking weapons and ammunition, including **banned chemical munitions**, through the port of Benghazi and eastern Libyan airports to supply Joulani's operations.





## Current Plots

### Lebanon Terrorist Plot.



At present, Musa is providing unspecified support to Lebanese Hezbollah for a joint plot with Al-Qaeda to occur in Lebanon. This collaboration reflects a strategic alignment indicating continued support for Iranian and Palestinian terrorist operations following the October 7th, 2023, attacks in Israel. Two partnered groups, the Afghan Taliban and Al-Qaeda, successfully obfuscated training Hamas attackers in Spring 2023 at multiple terrorist camps in southern Afghanistan. Since, and at the request of the Iranian Regime, Al-Qaeda has deployed approximately 10,000 newly trained fighters from its camps in Afghanistan to Iraq and Syria to support the targeting of U.S. and Israeli interests. Musa and his historic network support a number of these deployments.

### Saudi Peninsula Plot.



Al-Qaeda is currently planning a plot using Yemen-based networks to target U.S. and British diplomatic facilities on the Arabian Peninsula. Musa is leveraging his relationship with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force (IRGC-QF) — having been a trusted associate of its former leader, now-deceased Qasem Soleimani — to move terrorists to Yemen and Somalia. In Yemen, Musa is connected with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) senior operative Ibrahim al-Banna who returned after leaving Afghanistan approximately six months ago; and with Khalid Zaidan, the son of Sayf al-Adel, who is AQAP's liaison to the IRGC based in Yemen. Despite reports of Khalid's demise in March 2024, there is significant speculation that his death was fabricated. Additionally, Musa has direct relationships with the Islamic State – Somalia Province and the leader of Al-Shabaab, Abu Ubaidah (aka Ahmad Diriye) who is currently based in Afghanistan.

### U.S. Homeland Plot.



Musa is supporting core Al-Qaeda's next U.S. Homeland plot, which is expected to involve multiple coordinated attacks tentatively planned for 2025. Similar to the Hezbollah plot, Al-Qaeda intends to use covert methods to maintain anonymity, reminiscent of the tactics employed during the 2012 Benghazi attacks, which included participants from various terrorist groups initially concealing their involvement. The senior leadership of Al-Qaeda, primarily Sayf al-Adel, but also Al-Qaeda's leader Hamza bin Laden view this as a key to its survival. Learning from the repercussions of the 9/11 attacks, Sayf has adjusted strategies accordingly. For example, since late 2023, Al-Qaeda has not claimed responsibility for any of its successful attacks against our interests in Iraq and Syria, letting the blame fall solely on ISIS.

### Sabotaging U.S. Refugee Programs.

In Afghanistan, Musa creates fraudulent identity documents, such as passports, for terrorists from Al-Qaeda, ISIS, and the Taliban. These terrorists are first trained and then equipped with new documents before being deployed to the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East. Musa is supporting illegal migration to the U.S. Homeland, targeting our borders, but also looking to take advantage of legitimate refugee pathways for Afghan nationals, leveraging eligibility due to past service with the U.S. Government. It is recommended that enhanced vetting procedures be applied to anyone arriving in the U.S. with Afghan documentation due to Al-Qaeda's compromise of the passport/visa system referred to as the Afghan Automated Biometric Identification System (AABIS). Musa also accesses historic Afghan payroll systems targeting vulnerable allies for recruitment, blackmail, or murder, including the Ministry of Interior and Defense Staff and Internal Personnel Pay System (APPS), the National Directorate of Security (NDS) payroll system, and the Supreme Court of Afghanistan's salary system.

# Historic Plot Snapshot

## 01 2002 USAID's Laurence Foley Assassination

Suspected of supplying the fraudulent Tunisian passport to Salem bin Suweid, the Libyan, Al-Qaeda in Iraq member involved in the assassination. Salem's brother Saleh was a 2012 Benghazi attacker and is at-large. Salem was executed by the Jordanian Government on March 11th, 2006.



## 02 2012 U.S. Mission and CIA Annex Benghazi Attacks

Involved in arranging travel assistance for a large portion of the foreign attackers, including suspected of procuring a fraudulent passport for terrorist Ali Ouni al-Harzi who was detained in Turkey in October 2012 prior to his 2015 demise.



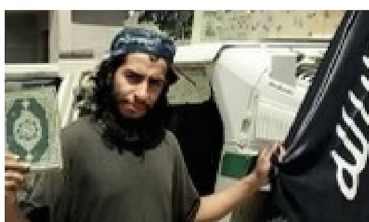
## 03 2013 U.S. & French Embassies Khorasan Plot

Served as the exclusive trusted travel facilitator in Turkey for Muhsin al-Fadhli and his Khorasan Group, which in 2013 was aiding Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri's advanced plot against the U.S. and French Embassies in Cairo. This plot was thwarted after Egyptian authorities detained several terrorists linked to the Nasr City Cell, who were also planning additional unspecified attacks in Europe.



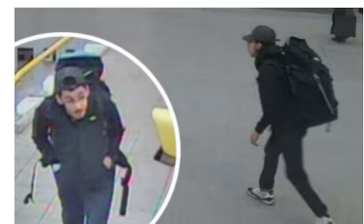
## 04 2015 Paris Attacks

Supported the travel of the Paris attackers, believed to have facilitated attacker Abdelhamid Abaaoud. Additionally, Musa facilitated the travel of Abaaoud's brother, Younis, to Darnah, Libya, for training with the Al Battar Brigade. Earlier, Musa, resided in France and facilitated the travel of 2012 Benghazi attacker Hamza al-Darnawi to France under a false identity in 2013.



## 05 2017 Manchester Cell

Provided travel facilitation for the Manchester Cell, linked to the Manchester Arena attack on May 22nd, 2017, following a concert by Ariana Grande. Consistently supported the cell's now-deceased leader Nur al-Din al-Dibiski since their time fighting together in the 1990s in Afghanistan. Also, supported Nur when he was leading the Military Commission for the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group (LIFG).





## Historic Syrian Foreign Fighter Facilitation

**For two decades, Musa has been a valued covert operative for the foreign fighter facilitation pipeline into Syria (and Iraq).**

Over the years, Musa supported clandestine operations in Syria for numerous senior Al-Qaeda leaders, including:

- ‘Abd al Rahman al-Maghrebi
- ‘Abd al Khayr al-Masri
- Abdallah Rajab al-Libi
- Abdul Moneim al-Hasnawi
- Abu Mohammad al-Masri
- Abu Yahya al-Libi
- Atiyah Abd al-Rahman
- Dr. Ayman al-Zawahiri
- Faruq al-Suri
- Muhsin al-Fadhli
- Suleiman Abu Ghaith
- Yasin al-Suri

While the list could extend further, it’s worth noting that Musa was deeply embedded in a core network of trusted Al-Qaeda operatives in Syria, including Abu Khalid al-Suri (aka Mohamed Bahaiah), Abu Bakr Mahmoud Abdullah Grebel, and Hassan Abboud—all of whom are now-deceased.



In Syria, specifically, Musa provided material support to numerous terrorist groups. These included Al-Qaeda and ISIS affiliates such as the aforementioned Al Battar Brigade and the Khorasan Group, among others that are listed below:

### **BACKED GROUPS**

---

Free Syrian Army

Al-Nusrah Front

Islamic State

Jaish al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar

Hurras al-Din (HAD)

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham

In 2012 and 2013, while Musa served as a travel facilitator in Turkey for al-Fadhli’s Khorason Group, he was linked to additional covert operational efforts led by Zawahiri, who prior had directed our 2012 Benghazi attacks and again was plotting the failed Cairo Embassy attacks.

To provide added context, Zawahiri aimed to recruit Americans and Europeans, exploiting their passports to facilitate easier access to U.S.-bound flights. Khorasan was leveraging the expertise of bombmakers from AQAP, like Ibrahim Hassan Tali al-Asiri, who tested new methods to bypass airport security to smuggle explosives onto aircrafts. Ibrahim was reportedly killed in 2017.

In AQAP’s Open Source Jihad video released in December 2023, there is a small clip at the end that appears to show a tribute to a bomb created by Ibrahim, likely the one from the failed Christmas 2009 “underwear bomber” plot in Detroit, Michigan.

Separately, Musa’s closest associate in Afghanistan, aforementioned Benghazi attacker Hamza al-Darnawi, was also charged with finding innovative ways to carry out attacks. Former Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden previously funded an electronics and explosives workshop for Hamza in Waziristan, Pakistan to improve improvised explosive device (IED) effectiveness.

***Musa has leveraged his extensive historical network in Turkey to facilitate the influx of foreign fighters into Syria and, prior to that, into Iraq. His network spans Turkish intelligence, past terrorist associates from the LIFG, the Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ), Al-Qaeda, and ISIS networks, Qatari Government connections, and the Muslim Brotherhood.***

**Turkey.** A 2012 leak by the Swedish Nordic Monitor news website (see below), based on Turkish Police documents, revealed that Musa (aka the Bin Ali Jihadi Organization) collaborated with Tharwat Shehata, a terrorist historically linked to EIJ and Zawahiri, as well as others including Turkey's National Intelligence Organization (MIT). This cooperation involved logistical support for shipping weapons, ammunition, and personnel from Libya to Syria via Turkey to aid Al-Qaeda. The Turkish leak provided two selectors for Musa, historic phone numbers (905365955998) and (905340336278), and a previous passport number listed as: (541753).

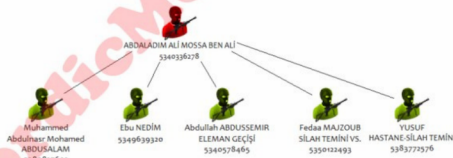
**Libyalı Ben Ali Grubu ve Önemli İrtibatları**  
Eleman ve Silah Sevkiyatı

MIT Müsteşarlığı'ndan Temmuz 2012'den itibaren;

- “İrak'taki El Kaide terör örgütünün Libya'dan Suriye'ye Ülkemiz üzerinden silah sevkiyatı gerçekleştirmeyi planladığı,
- Bu kapsamda Libya' ve Türkiye'deki El Kaide yanlılarıyla birlikte hareket eden **Abdüladim Ali Mossa BEN ALI**'nin lojistik destek sağlayan şebekede yer aldığı, İstanbul ve Hatay bağlantılı faaliyet gösterdiği” yönünde ilgili birimlere yazılar gönderilmiştir. (EK-1 ve 2)

Güvenlik birimlerinin yaptığı çalışmalarda;

- **BEN ALI**'nin Libya uyuşku olduğu ve iç çatışmalarda hayatını kaybeden eski devlet başkanı KADDAFI'ye karşı hareket eden muhalifler güçler arasında görev yapmış olabileceği,
- Açık kaynaklarda şahsın, Libya İç Güvenlik Servisinde herhangi bir suç isnat edilmeden (2) kez gözaltına alındığı<sup>1</sup>, son göz altısı sırasında bulunduğu cezaevinden kaçtığı/kaçırıldığı,
- BEN ALI'nin Suriye'deki muhalif güçlerle irtibatlı olduğu, bu kapsamda talimatlarını iletme ve bölgeden bilgi almak üzere aktif olarak (5) irtisakını kullandığı,

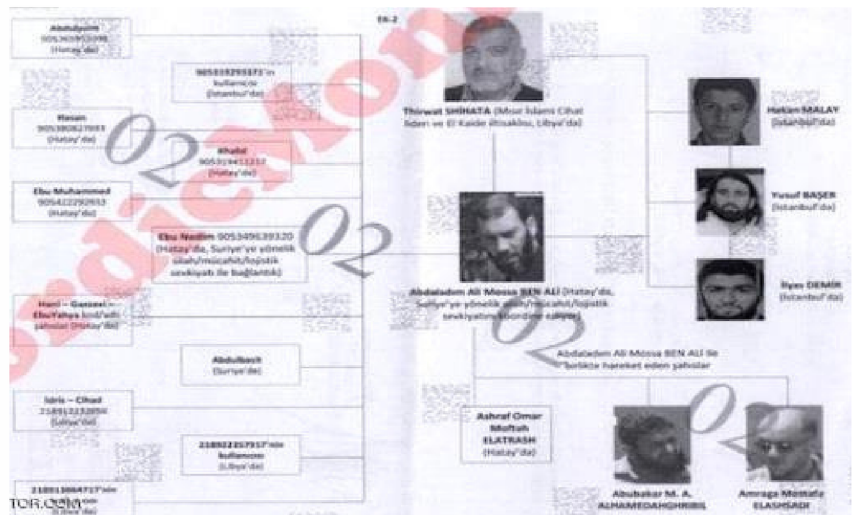


- Özellikle Libya'dan gruplar halinde İstanbul'a gelen yabancı uyuşku şahısları karşılayarak Suriye'ye ulaştırılmak üzere Hatay'a gönderdiği ve bu şahısların aileleri ile irtibatını sağladığı,

1 Thirwat SHIHATA, Ülkemize girişi yasaklar kapsamındaki Mesir İslami Chat Örgütü eski lideri SHIHATA 18 Kasım 2011'de İstanbul'da yakalanmış, ABD makamlarına atfen MIT tarafından Irak'a sınır dışı edilmesi talep edilmiş, ancak şahıs 04 Mayıs 2012'de Libya'ya sınır dışı edilmiştir. Şahıs ABD makamlarına yakından takip edilmektedir.  
2 İstanbul'da El Kaide yerlisi faaliyetlerde bulunan Hakan MALAY, Yusuf BAŞER ve İlyas DEMİR.  
3 1969 Derna doğumlu, 541753 seri nolu Libya pasaportu hamili  
4 www.italia.ch.org, 1995-2002 ve 2005-2007 yıllarında gözetiminde olduğu.

**Libya.** The key Turkey-Libya node includes the following terrorists: Khalid Sharif, Sami al-Saadi, Ahmad al-Saadi, Ismail al-Lawati, Ismail Kamoka, and fellow 2012 Benghazi plotter Ismail al-Sallabi. Interestingly, two Al-Qaeda family members are also involved in this node: Anas, the son of now-deceased Abu Anas al-Libi aka Nazih Abdul-Hamed Nabih al-Ruqai'I, and Abdel Wahab Mohamed Qaid the older brother of Abu Yahya al-Libi. Abu Yahya's death in June 2012 was a catalyst for Al-Qaeda's September 2012 attacks. Abu Yahya's son, who was raised in Afghanistan, is also reportedly involved in Al-Qaeda's operational efforts collaborating with Musa.

**Tunisia.** Musa, along with Al-Qaeda in Libya leader Abdelhakim Belhaj, also moved terrorists to/from Libya, Syria and other locales on behalf of Ennahdha in Tunisia which was established by the Muslim Brotherhood based out of Egypt at the request of Tunisian politician Rashid Ghannouchi. Ennahdha operates as a parallel intelligence service to the actual government of Tunisia's intelligence service, the National Security Service (NSS). In addition, both Musa and Belhaj are playing a covert role in the current resurgence of terrorist networks in Tunisia.







## Biography

**An Al-Qaeda covert operative's journey, from Libya's chaos to the corridors of power, unveiling the murky nexus of terrorism, geopolitics, and hidden agendas.**



Al-Qaeda member Abdul Azim Ali Musa bin Ali with variant Abdeladim Ali Mussa Benali of the al-Darsi tribe was born in 1969 in Darnah, Libya.

In the early 1990s, he fought alongside the Afghan mujahideen earning recognition from Al-Qaeda, who appointed him as a clandestine officer. His current role is akin to head of covert operations for the group.

Musa returned to Libya, where he was first detained under the Gaddafi regime on August 9th, 1995, for his support to Al-Qaeda. He was released on October 15th, 2002, from Abu Salim prison, where he had been detained with dozens of future 2012 Benghazi attackers.

After his detention, Musa worked for Al-Qaeda in Syria and Iraq. Beginning in 2003, he orchestrated the movement of a significant number of Libyan foreign fighters, including those from his hometown in Darnah, to join Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's AQI forces. Musa also supported Zarqawi's pre-AQI group Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad.

According to the Sinjar Records, Libya was among the top sources of foreign fighters in Iraq during this period, with approximately 85% of Libyan fighters listed volunteering for suicide missions, a notably high percentage compared to other nationalities.

Reports suggest that up to 20% of foreign fighters in Iraq were Libyan, often arriving well-trained and operationally capable, owing to Musa and his network. While it remains unclear how many U.S. troop deaths in Iraq can be attributed to Musa, the impact is substantial.

On February 16th, 2005, Musa was detained once more by Libyan security officials when attempting to obtain visas for travel to the United Kingdom and Ireland. He was held again at Abu Salim prison. Though the precise date of his release remains unclear, it was initially reported via Facebook on August 22nd, 2011.

After his release, Musa was seen publicly during the Libyan

Revolution with AQIM's Mali Group in the vicinity of Misrata. The Mali group was one of the primary AQIM battalions, including the one led by Mokhtar Belmokhtar, that carried out the U.S. Mission attack in Benghazi on September 11th, 2012.

The leader of this group, and fellow Benghazi 2012 plotter Hashem Abu Sidra, was captured in late 2023 in Libya. At the time, he was head of ISIS in Libya and Musa had trafficked humans, fighters, weapons, and illicit goods across the Sahel for Hashem.

Back to 2012, despite his experience as an Al-Qaeda terrorist and his involvement in numerous terrorist incidents and militia activities in Libya, the United Nations Human Rights Council petitioned for Musa's "release" on December 11th, 2012. This petition came oddly three months to the day of his direct material support to our Benghazi attacks and over a year after his actual release.

Since 2011, Musa has leveraged his expertise in covertly transporting terrorists and weapons to a range of groups, from Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis in Egypt to the Taliban in Afghanistan. His duties have included organizing clandestine logistics to and from war zones such as Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Afghanistan giving him unparalleled access to the most prominent terrorists in the world.

Although Musa was meant to remain clandestine, his support at the onset of the Syrian Civil War brought him temporarily onto the international radar as he facilitated western recruits to Syria. As such, he has spent time hiding in Syria, Iraq, France, and Turkey before seeking refuge in Iran, where he had both personal and operational ties with the IRGC.

Musa was relocated to Afghanistan from Iran by the Haqqani Network after the fall of Kabul in 2021, a move similar to the group's relocation of Sayf al-Adel to Afghanistan in 2022.

Musa currently resides in Khowst Province. Although the exact date of his arrival in Afghanistan is unknown, he was first located while meeting Hamza al-Darnawi in 2023.



Musa hails from a family deeply embedded in terrorist activities, with connections extending to the United Kingdom.

His cousin, Essam Younes Abdul Rasoul bin Ali al-Darsi (aka Ziyad Mikhlef Ahmed), a former member of AQI was an attacker at the U.S. Mission in Benghazi on September 11th. A British resident and member of the Muslim Brotherhood, Essam was later part of a terrorist cell composed of former Benghazi residents based in Switzerland.

Essam was best known for his activities with Zarqawi and AQI in Fallujah, Iraq, alongside Suwailem al-Hadi Suwailem al-Qaiqai al-Ruwaili, a Saudi Most Wanted terrorist who was captured in 2016 for his involvement in the 2014 al-Dalwah attack in Saudi Arabia.



Essam al-Darsi

Essam also has brothers named Tariq, an extremist in Benghazi, and Samir, who possibly resides in the U.K.

All of them are also related to Mohammad Musa Ali Musa Abdel Salam Ben Ali, a senior terrorist also based in the U.K. Musa is Mohammad's uncle.

Mohammad's father, who has a similar name to his son is also an extremist, and is possibly operating as a pilot in the U.K. The father has a British wife named Jacqueline (full name available upon request).

**Sourcing:** This biography is brought to you by the investigative team behind Benghazi: Know Thy Enemy (ISBN 979-8986822105) and our allies. Feel free to use, share, and expand upon these efforts. This article is released into the public domain and is free of copyright restrictions.

---

*To honor the collective efforts shared herein, please advocate for the stoppage of U.S. funds to the Taliban, which are transferred to Musa enabling covert operations supporting a number of designated foreign terrorist organizations.*

---

***"For all those who gave everything for this war"***